police patrolling so as to check infiltrators and militant elements.

(b) The enforcement agencies have been instructed to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the provisions contained in various Acts.

(c) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been strengthened. Reward Scheme for the informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously under the NDPS Act.

(d) Field level contact points in all Central and State Government enforcement agencies have been established to provide inter-agency cooperation in enforcement work.

(e) Coordination meetings are being held periodically at the Central and State level to review the working of enforcement agencies and to exchange intelligence on various illegal activities.

Rural Godowns

1718. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct Rural Godowns in every State particularly in the poor and backward States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of such godowns proposed to be constructed in different States; and

(c) the fund provision made therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations for construction of small godowns of the capacity upto 2000 MTs in interior areas where it is necessary to maintain adequate stocks to ensure regular supplies under PDS. This scheme is being implemented to supplement the resources of State Governments/UT Administrations to augment their storage capacity in remote/ inaccessible/hilly areas covered in the identified RPDS Blocks. The Scheme is proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan. For the Annual Plan 1997-98 an outlay of Rs. 12.50 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Tenure of Employees of FCI and Super Bazar

1719. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix a tenure of three years for the employees of the Food Corporation of India and Super Bazar in view of the Fifth Pay Panel Report;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees in the FCI and Super Bazar who have been at one assignment for more than three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rotate them ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have informed that the Fifth Pay Commission have, *inter-alia*, made recommendations in Chapter 25 Section-III (Vol. I) as regards tenure and transfer policies applicable to posts in the Central Government. These recommendations are not applicable in the case of Food Corporation of India and Super Bazar employees.

Condition of the Jails

1720. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seventh Finance Commission (1978) had observed that a certain minimum standard of upkeep of prisoners, improvement in diet and amenities and to certain extent, addition to jail capacity are urgently called for but even after 19 years there has been practically no improvement in the environment and the living conditions of prisoners are deplorable;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action to improve the condition of the jails; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Seventh Finance Commission had observed that a certain minimum standard of upkeep of prisoners improvements in diet and amenities, and to a certain extent additions to jail capacity were urgently called for. Though there is scope to improve environment and living conditions in jails, it would not be correct to say that no improvement in this regard has been made during the last 19 years.

Under Entry 4, List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, 'Prisons' is a State subject. It is primarily for the State Governments to take steps to improve the conditions of jails within their respective jurisdiction. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Central Government, under the Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration, has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments to improve living conditions in prisons. The Finance Commissions have also been regularly providing financial assistance to the state